THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the total outstanding advances to agriculture of commercial banks, cooperatives and regional rural banks were of the order of Rs. 26,000 crores as at the end of June, 1989 (latest available).

(b) Matters relating to rural credit remain under the constant review of Government and Reserve Bank of India and the proposals of the State Governments when received are also taken into consideration.

Commission for Selection of Judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts

302. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a panel or Commission for the selection of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details relating to the constitution of the Commission and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF HE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) The Government intend to set up a High Level Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the transfer of Judges from one High Court to another. The details are being worked out. It is not possible to indicate by when the Commission is likely to start functioning.

Filling up of Vacant Posts of Junior Proof Readers in the Central Water Commission

303. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3039 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1989 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that against the reserved vacancies of Junior Proof Readers, candidates of un-reserved categories on *ad hoc* basis/daily wages have been appointed in the Central Water Commission ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the concerned authorities to fill up the said reserved posts after June, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since one SC candidate was found suitable against ST vacancy, the possibility of exchanging the vacancy reserved for ST for being filled by appointment of a SC candidate was explored. This has been found to be not permissible.

Alleged Political Interference in the Appointment of Judges

304. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Chief Justice of India has expressed dismay over political interference in the appointments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges recently as reported in the 'Independent' an English daily published from Bombay dated the 30th January 1990 ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) The Government have seen the press report.

(b) There is no occasion for the Government to react.

Confiscation of Copies of Newsweek

305. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI :
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether customs authorities have confiscated the copies of American news-magazine "Newsweek" February 5 issue containing a map showing the State of J&K as part of Pakistan ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what final action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (c) 'Newsweek' Magazine of 5th February, 1990 issue was detained by Collector of Customs, Sahar Airport, Bombay as it contained a map which showed part of the State of J&K as part of Pakistan. The matter was examined and it was decided to release the magazine after affixing a superinscription that "the external boundary of India as depicted in the map is neither correct nor authentic" . The magazine was released after such superinscription on 3-2-90.

Foreign Tourists

306. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI :
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last ten months of the current financial year and what were the corresponding figures for the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 ;

(b) the name of the countries from which these tourists had come during the above period ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the first 10 months of the current financial year as compared to the same period of the last 3 years are as given below :

April-January	Arrivals (Incl. nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh)
1986-87 . . .	12,00,627
1987-88 . . .	12,37,871
1988-89 . . .	13,21,522
1989-90 . . .	14,60,668

(b) The major countries of origin of these tourists in the order of percentage share are Bangladesh, U.K., Pakistan, USA, France, FRG, Sri Lanka, Japan, Italy, Canada, UAE and Malayasia.

(c) The Government proposes to attract more foreign tourists to